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50

1 August 1970

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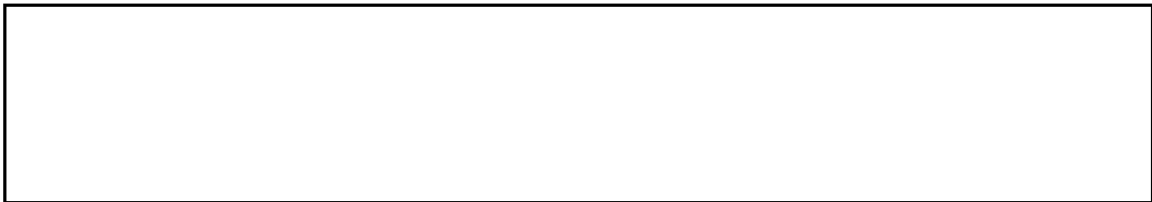
Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

Cambodia: The government is planning to revise the constitution along republican lines. (Page 1)

Israel: Acceptance of the US peace initiative does not indicate any significant weakening of Israel's position. (Page 3)

Uruguay: American and Brazilian diplomats were kidnapped yesterday in coordinated terrorist attacks. (Page 4)



25X1

Arms Control: Prospects for an endorsement of the draft seabeds treaty have improved. (Page 7)

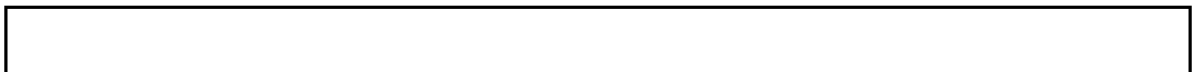
Laos: Communist envoy (Page 8)



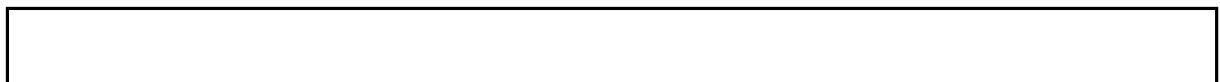
25X1

Czechoslovakia: Party management (Page 9)

25X1



Dominican Republic: Terrorist to return (Page 10)

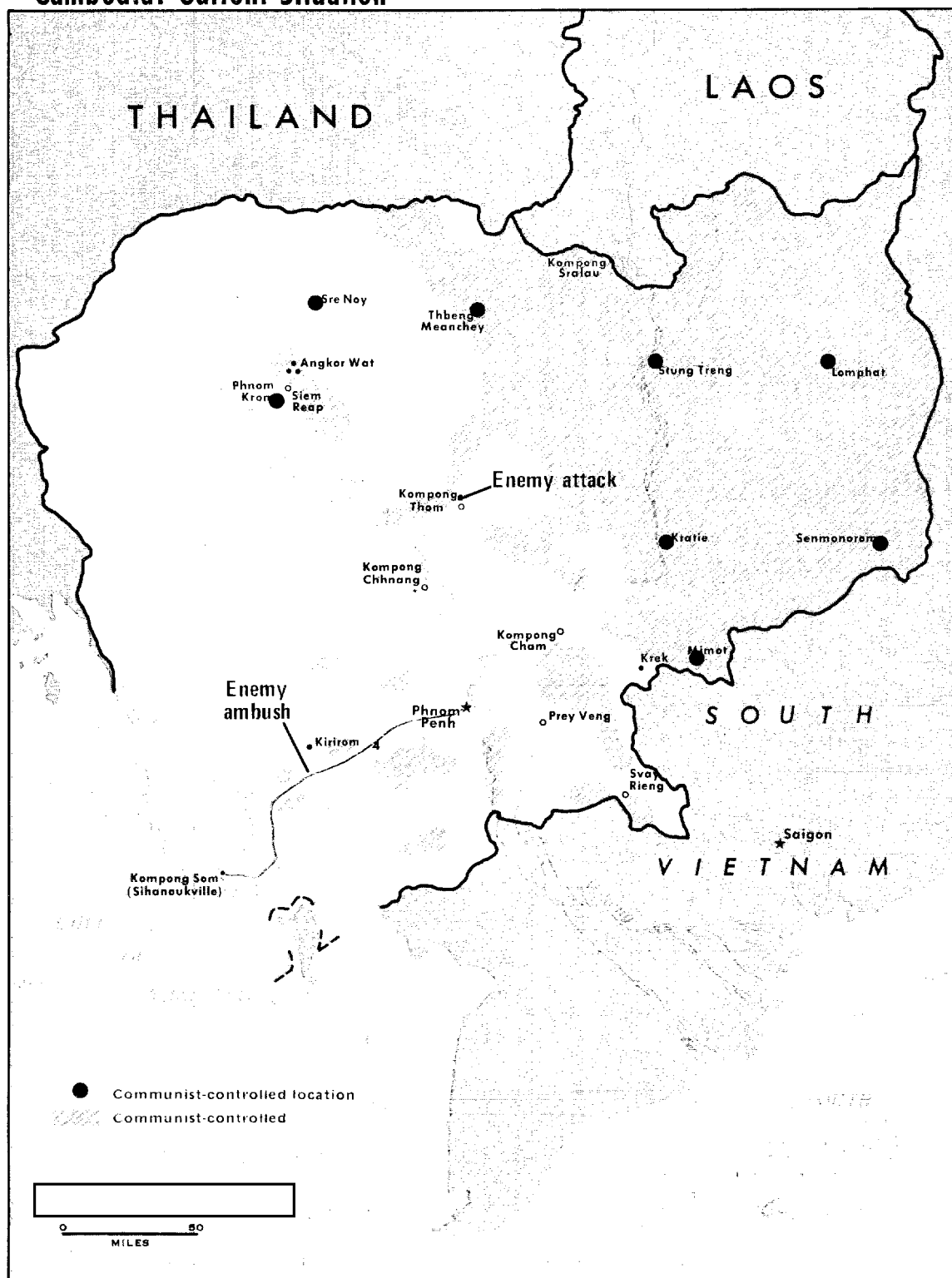


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Cambodia: Current Situation



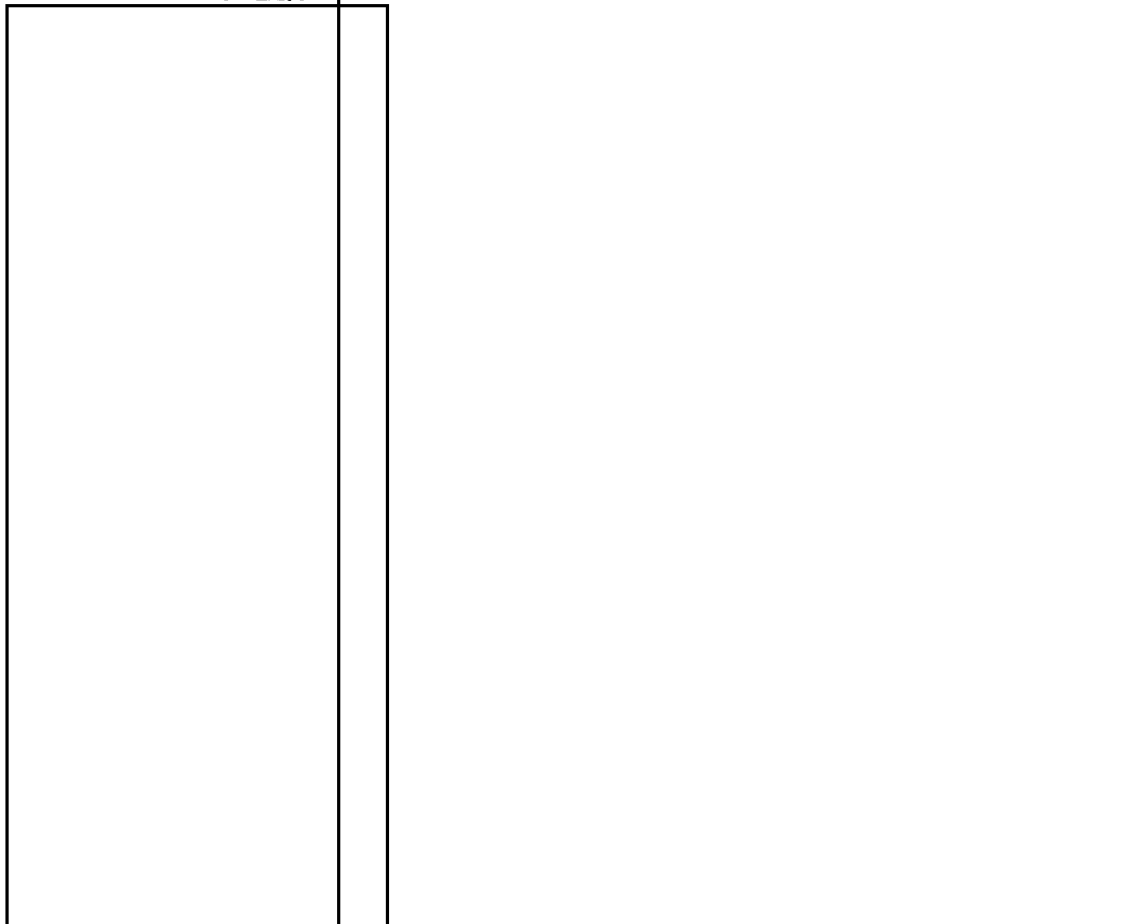
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Cambodia:

The Military Situation

Government forces pushing through the jungle toward Kirirom have been slowed by heavy monsoon rains, and are now midway between their staging areas on Route 4 and the town itself. A government battalion from Phnom Penh moving on Route 4 just south of Kirirom was overrun yesterday by the Communists, and air strikes were called in on both sides of the road.

In the west, meanwhile, on 30 July two government battalions were attacked by three Communist

1 Aug 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

1

SECRET

SECRET

battalions three miles north of Kompong Thom city. Nine government troops were killed, including a battalion commander; enemy losses were unknown. No major enemy ground attacks have been made on the city since early June, and nine government battalions are stationed there now.
(Map)

25X1

1 Aug 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

2

SECRET

SECRET

Israel: The cabinet's hard-fought decision to accept the US peace initiative does not indicate any significant weakening of Israel's long-standing principles on a settlement.

Tel Aviv's acceptance contained no public qualifications, probably because the Israelis hope to appear as positive as Egypt and Jordan. In accepting a cease-fire "of at least three months on the Egyptian front," the Israelis will insist on a strict observance of the standstill, however. They will also hold to their own interpretation of the withdrawal section of the UN Security Council Resolution 242. In any talks with UN negotiator Jarring and the Arabs, moreover, the Israelis can be expected to be as tough in bargaining as ever.

Prime Minister Meir reportedly has told her party that even if the right-wing Gahal leaves the coalition, her government will not be weaker or less resolute in defending Israel. The announcement specifically states that the cabinet "will remain faithful to the basic principles of the government's resolves and its official statements."

Gahal apparently still has not made a final decision whether to leave the government. Most of the members of Gahal favor retention of all the conquered Arab territories. Some are holding out for doctrinal purity while others argue that to leave now is to give up influence prematurely--before the Arabs' intentions are really tested. Mrs. Meir, although still trying to keep Gahal in the coalition, will retain a comfortable majority without them. If Gahal did leave, it would have little ability to organize any opposition that could threaten the government.



1 Aug 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

3

SECRET

SECRET

Uruguay: US and Brazilian diplomats were kidnaped yesterday in coordinated attacks by the extreme leftist Tupamaros.

In their first abduction of foreigners, the Tupamaros have demanded the release of all political prisoners for the American and have threatened to kill the Brazilian unless a ransom of slightly more than \$1 million is paid. As recently as March, President Pacheco stated that if a foreign diplomat were kidnaped, the Uruguayan Government would not accede to terrorist demands. Earlier this week, following the kidnaping of a judge, Pacheco said that there would be no exchange of prisoners for the judge.

The Tupamaros continue to demonstrate their capability with a series of spectacular terrorist acts, despite the fact that approximately 140 of their members are in prison. Although the Tupamaros are not a direct threat to the government, they have been a key factor in causing the President to curtail civil liberties. In early June following a Tupamaros assault on a naval armory, President Pacheco cited the need for extreme repressive measures; this latest embarrassment to the government could provoke him into decreeing such measures.

25X1

25X1

1 Aug 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

4

SECRET

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

SECRET

Arms Control: A Soviet decision to join the US in considering changes in the draft seabeds treaty appears to have enhanced measurably the prospects for an endorsement of the treaty this year.

Until a few weeks ago, the USSR insisted that the treaty must stand or fall as originally drafted and revised by the superpowers. The nonaligned states represented at the Geneva disarmament talks have been dissatisfied, however, with the present text. The Soviet and US delegations at Geneva now have reached agreement on alterations designed to satisfy most of their concerns and are referring the proposed changes to their capitals and allied nations.

Argentina and Brazil, two of the three Latin American states represented at the Geneva talks, have been consulted on possible alterations and now appear much more likely to accept the treaty in its ad referendum form than was hitherto the case. Argentine and Brazilian endorsement of the treaty would be very influential within the Latin American bloc, many of whose members have been opposed to the superpowers' positions on maritime issues.

The US-USSR draft seabeds treaty is the only item on which the Geneva conferees may be able to reach an agreement during their 1970 sessions. Failure to reach agreement would increase pressure within the UN General Assembly to question the adequacy of the Geneva forum and to launch a more heated debate on maritime issues than now appears likely. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

25X1

1 Aug 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

7

SECRET

SECRET

NOTES

Laos: Souk Vangsok, the special envoy from Communist leader Souphanouvong, arrived in Vientiane on 31 July and is expected to have private talks with Prime Minister Souvanna today. Souk is the most important contact between the Communists and Vientiane since 1964.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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1 Aug 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

8

SECRET

SECRET

Czechoslovakia: Party leader Husak apparently has come to terms with leading conservatives over how the party is to be run. In a speech given in early July, which has just become available, Vasil Bilak, a presidium member and leading proponent of tough party policies, proclaimed his support for Husak's policy of reconciliation and declared that the presidium was unanimously behind Husak's leadership. Bilak, who at one time seemed to be in league with those contesting Husak's control of the party, made it clear that such support was conditional and predicated on the party's maintaining strict domination of the country's affairs. Nevertheless, Bilak's proclamation of allegiance has probably been an important factor in Husak's recent willingness to chastise publicly his dogmatist critics and to press his middle-of-the road course.

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Dominican Republic: The exiled head of the leftist terrorist Dominican Popular Movement (MPD) may attempt to return to the Dominican Republic before the inauguration of President Balaguer on 16 August. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Gomez and 19 other political prisoners were released by Dominican authorities earlier this year in exchange for the US air attaché, who had been kidnaped by terrorists. Gomez may be returning to fill a leadership vacuum that has existed since security forces killed the acting head of the MPD two weeks ago. [REDACTED]

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1 Aug 70

Central Intelligence Bulletin

10

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